

THE OH₂R₂AF NEWS

SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

Welcome to the latest edition of the OH₂R₂AF News, a periodic newsletter intended to provide the latest news and information about and from the OSWER Human Health Regional Risk Assessors Forum (OHHRRAF) and its members. Information contained in this newsletter is intended for EPA employees only. Distribution to any other individual or party is not authorized.

OHHRRAF TRAINING CONFERENCE

The Technology Integration and Information Branch (TIIB), the branch within OSRTI that handles training conferences, has arranged meeting space for the OHHRRAF in Denver for the week of November 17-20, 2015, and provided assurances that paperwork has been prepared and will be submitted promptly to obtain approval for the long-awaited OHHRRAF Training Conference. Please tentatively hold these dates. Additional information will be forthcoming, hopefully in the next few weeks. A survey will be sent out prior to the meeting to help inform planning sessions and OHHRRAF activities for the coming year.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

State Coordination Workgroup: Alethea Tsui-Bowen, Region 6

A special teleconference was called on August 4 to address the states' interest pertaining to vapor intrusion. Rich Kapuscinski (OSRTI) spoke about the OSWER Technical Guide for assessing and mitigating vapor

intrusion pathway from subsurface vapor sources to indoor air at Superfund and RCRA corrective action sites. Matthew Williams (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) briefed participants on the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) Petroleum Vapor Intrusion Guidance. Roger Brewer (Hawaii Department of Health) presented his perspectives on research and policy development needs in vapor intrusion and called for longer duration and larger volume in sub-slab vapor sampling. The next quarterly conference call will be held on October 20.

Technical Review Workgroup for Metals and Asbestos (Lead Technical Review Workgroup): Charles Partridge, Region 8

The Lead Technical Review Workgroup (TRW) expects to post training videos on using the Integrated Exposure Uptake Biokinetic (IEUBK) model on the website in September. It is also expected to soon release a version of the IEUBK model that is more compatible with Windows 7 environment, with no changes to model inputs or results.

Revisions to the Residential Lead Sites Handbook will continue this quarter.

Lead TRW subcommittee is continuing discussions to develop recommendations for urban risk assessments at lead sites. A conference in September in Philadelphia is being planned by Jack Kelly (Region 3) to discuss this topic.

The TRW is reviewing the data on MSD (mass fraction of outdoor soil in indoor dust) from the Bunker Hill Superfund Site for the IEUBK model, and continuing to develop a state-of-the-science review of lead attribution methods for use at lead sites.

The TRW is collaborating with the Office of Research and Development, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) on next steps for the development of the All Ages Lead Model (AALM), which is being made available for beta testing. While it is a useful tool, the AALM is for research purposes only and has yet to be evaluated for Superfund site risk assessment. The IEUBK remains the only model appropriate for Superfund human health risk assessment for children.

RISK NEWS

Regional Screening Level Update Posted

The following update on [Regional Screening Levels](#) has been posted:

New Tapwater and Soil to Groundwater [Generic Tables](#) were generated that reflect a correction in the tapwater cancer inhalation route for:

- Nitrosodimethylamine, N-;
- Benz[a]anthracene;
- Methylene Chloride; and
- Dibromo-3-chloropropane, 1,2.

NIEHS Requests Nominations for Its 50th Anniversary

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is seeking nominations for milestones for possible inclusion in its 50th Anniversary Commemoration. A milestone could be a person, event, scientific achievement, public health impact, or significant historical moment. [Submit nominations online](#). Nominations are due by September 15, 2015.

August NTP Update Newsletter Available Online

The August 2015 issue of the NTP's [Update Newsletter](#) is now available online.

August Environmental Factor Available Online

The August 2015 issue of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) [Environmental Factor](#) is now available online.

IRIS Lean Event

In late August, a small team of NCEA scientists (some of whom are pictured below) gathered over the course of a week to work on applying the "Lean Process" to the development of IRIS Draft Assessments. Under the guidance of several Lean facilitators, the team



analyzed the IRIS Draft development process with the goals of improving program productivity, efficiency, and quality. Wendy O'Brien and Stiven Foster provided input regarding the needs of the Regions and Programs, emphasizing quality, timeliness, implementability ("fit for purpose"), and the need for more assessments. The team identified opportunities for process improvement, along with tools needed to support the changes, in order to better meet the customers' (Regions and Programs) needs. An implementation plan, along with Key Performance Indicators, will help track progress and monitor improvement in the development of IRIS Draft Assessments.

TRAINING AND CONFERENCES

National Association of Remedial Project Managers (NARPM) Conference

The NARPM training conference originally scheduled for the week of October 15, 2015, has been postponed. EPA senior management is working to find an alternative date and location during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2016. The new date will be announced once it is confirmed.

Training

A two-day course on [Planning and Preparing an Ecological Risk Assessment](#), conducted by the Northwest Environmental Training Center, will be held on November 19-20 in Lone Tree, CO. Participants will learn and review technical and regulatory approaches to completing ecological risk assessments.

A self-guided, online course on [Discovering TOXNET®](#), conducted by the National Library of Medicine Training Center, will be available October 5-November 2. It includes a module on Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) and Risk Assessment.

A three-day training on [Best Practices for Site Characterization Throughout the Remediation Process](#),

conducted by EPA, will be held on January 26-28, 2016, in San Francisco. It will cover risk assessment and real-time data.

Upcoming Events

A workshop on [Interindividual Variability: New Ways to Study and Implications for Decision-Making](#), sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences' program on Emerging Science for Environmental Health Decisions, will be held on September 30-October 1 in Washington, D.C.

The National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) has scheduled several [Public Workshops on Issues in Risk Assessment](#) to discuss and evaluate topics in risk assessment that are designed to engage the broader scientific community, interested stakeholders, and the public. Dates and topics are:

- September 2-3: Epigenetics and Cumulative Risk Assessment (This workshop is being developed to inform next steps in incorporating advancements in epigenetics into health assessments);
- October 19-21: Temporal Exposure Issues for Environmental Pollutants: Health Effects and Methodologies for Estimating Risk (This workshop is in response to issues that have been raised in recent IRIS reviews, including but not limited to, use of developmental endpoints for the calculation of chronic toxicity values); and
- December 16-17: Advancing Systematic Review (The IRIS Program is continuing to advance the state of the science of systemic review as per the 2014 NRC recommendations in its Review of EPA's IRIS Process, and intends to hold multiple workshops on this topic).

EPA will discuss science questions related to estimating the potential risk of human skin cancer from dermal exposure to benzo[a]pyrene (BaP) during the [October IRIS Public Science Meeting](#). This will be a one day meeting

in Arlington, VA. All materials, including the science questions to be discussed at the meeting, are posted [online](#). Additional science questions will be accepted from participants until September 22, 2015. If you plan to attend the meeting in person or via webinar please [register](#) by October 23, 2015. All written comments must be received through the [BaP docket](#) by October 15, 2015. For more information on the meeting please visit the [October Public Science Meeting Webpage](#).

Please send any items you would like to include in the OHHRRAF Newsletter to Tim Frederick at frederick.tim@epa.gov or abraham.parker@emsus.com.

NEXT OHHRRAF CONFERENCE CALL INFO

The next OHHRRAF conference call is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, from 12:30-2 p.m. EDT.

On October 1 (starting at 12:30 EDT), Rich Kapuscinski will provide a briefing on the *OSWER Technical Guide for Assessing and Mitigating the Vapor Intrusion Pathway from Subsurface Vapor Sources to Indoor Air* [OSWER Publication 9200.2-154], emphasizing those elements that may be of greatest interest to EPA human health risk assessors. The Guide is intended for use at sites within EPA's jurisdiction that are being evaluated pursuant to CERCLA or RCRA corrective action, sites subject to EPA's brownfield grants, and certain federally operated facilities, where vapor intrusion may be of potential concern. The Guide is available on-line at <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/vaporintrusion/>.

For both calls, OHHRRAF members can use:
Call in #: 866-299-3188
Conference Access Code #: 6898207

CORRECTIONS

Several items were brought to our attention that needed correction in last month's newsletter. We apologize for these errors. Items that needed correction are:

The newsletter stated - "The Bioavailability Technical Review Workgroup (TRW) sent out a survey about a new *in vitro* swine bioaccessibility method. This method is less extensive and takes less time than the original *in vivo* swine bioassay, on which this method was based, and has been validated for lead and arsenic." The word "swine" should not have been included in the description of the *in vivo* and *in vitro* methods. This same discussion also stated - "Currently the method is being evaluated for dioxin and PAHs." There is a workgroup that is looking at applying bioavailability to dioxin and PAHs but it would first have to be developed for *in vivo* studies.

The newsletter stated - "Kate Guyton from World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer discussed the agency's glyphosate assessment. The findings will be published later this year, and will classify glyphosate as a type 2 carcinogen." According to WHO, Glyphosate is classified as a Group 2A carcinogen.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS/QUESTIONS

If you have any suggestions or topics for the next conference call or any questions/comments, please contact the tri-chairs:

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